

**In the Claims:**

Please add new claims 23 to 26 and amend claim 1, 3 to 5, and 9 to 11 as follows:

1.(currently amended) A method of blank pressing a glass body, especially for an optical application, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a press mold comprising an upper mold part, a lower mold part and, optionally, a ring;

b) receiving a glass body heated above a shaping temperature in said press mold;

c) applying a voltage across the upper mold part and the lower mold part for working the glass body at temperatures above a sticking temperature ( $T_0$ );  
and

d) applying a pressing force to the glass body at the latest at after a temperature of the glass body in the press mold that matches a temperature of the press mold.

2.(original) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said voltage is a D.C. voltage.

3.(currently amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said voltage is an asymmetrical ~~unsymmetrical~~-A.C. voltage.

4.(currently amended) The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising reducing wherein-said pressing force during a time interval in which is kept constant or reduced when said temperature of said press mold decreases.

5.(currently amended) The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising heating wherein-said glass body in is heated when said glass body is within-said press mold.

6.(original) A method of blank pressing a glass body, especially for an optical application, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a press mold comprising an upper mold part, a lower mold part and, optionally, a ring;

b) receiving a glass body heated above a shaping temperature in said press mold;

c) cooling the press mold after reaching a predetermined temperature of the press mold; and

d) applying a pressing force to the glass body after exceeding a sticking temperature ( $T_0$ ).

7.(original) The method as defined in claim 6, further comprising applying a voltage across the upper mold part and the lower mold part.

8.(original) The method as defined in claim 7, wherein said voltage is a D.C. voltage.

9.(currently amended) The method as defined in claim 7, wherein said voltage is an asymmetrical ~~unsymmetrical~~ A. C. voltage.

10.(currently amended) The method as defined in claim 6, further comprising reducing wherein said pressing force during a time interval in which is kept constant or reduced when said temperature of said press mold decreases.

11.(currently amended) The method as defined in claim 6, further comprising heating wherein said glass body in is heated when said glass body is within said press mold.

Claims 12 to 22.(canceled)

23.(new) A method of precision pressing a glass body to form an optical component of high quality, said method consisting of:

a) providing a press mold comprising an upper mold part, a lower mold part and, optionally, a ring;

b) receiving a glass body in the press mold so that the glass body is between the upper mold part and the lower mold part;

c) applying a voltage across the glass body received in the press mold in step b);

d) during the applying of the voltage in step c), heating the press mold continuously to a temperature above a sticking temperature ( $T_0$ ), wherein said glass body adheres to the press mold at said temperature above said sticking temperature without applying said voltage across the glass body;

e) after the glass body and the press mold have both reached a common temperature during the heating of step d), in a first press stage maintaining said temperature of the press mold constant, continuing application of said voltage across the glass body, and applying a predetermined pressure to the glass body;

f) in a second press stage following said first press stage simultaneously reducing said pressure applied to said glass body from said predetermined pressure and simultaneously reducing said temperature of the press mold;

g) in a third press stage following the second press stage maintaining said pressure applied to said glass body constant and maintaining said temperature of said press mold constant; and

h) in a fourth press stage following the third press stage lowering said temperature of said press mold below said temperature of said press mold in said third press stage and lowering said pressure applied to said glass body below said pressure applied to said glass body in said third press stage; and then

i) removing the glass body from the press mold to thus obtain the optical component, wherein said optical component has deviations from predetermined dimensions that are smaller than 100 nm.

24.(new) The method as defined in claim 23, wherein said voltage is a D.C. voltage or an asymmetrical A.C. voltage.

25.(new) A method of precision pressing a glass body to form an optical component of high quality, said method consisting of:

a) providing a press mold comprising an upper mold part, a lower mold part and, optionally, a ring;

b) receiving a glass body in the press mold so that the glass body is between the upper mold part and the lower mold part;

c) applying a voltage across the glass body received in the press mold in step b);

d) during the applying of the voltage in step c), heating the press mold continuously to a temperature above a sticking temperature ( $T_0$ ), wherein said glass body adheres to the press mold at said temperature above said sticking temperature without applying said voltage across the glass body;

e) after the glass body and the press mold have both reached a common temperature during the heating of step d), rapidly cooling the press mold to a reduced temperature below said common temperature;

f) after step e) in a first press stage maintaining said temperature of the press mold constant and applying a predetermined pressure to the glass body;

g) in a second press stage following said first press stage simultaneously reducing said pressure applied to said glass body below said predetermined

pressure and simultaneously allowing the press mold and the glass body to cool;

h) during a third press stage following the second press stage maintaining said pressure applied to said glass body constant and maintaining said temperature of said press mold constant; and

i) during a fourth press stage following the third press stage allowing said press mold to cool and reducing said pressure applied to said glass body from said pressure applied to said glass body during said third press stage; and then

j) removing the glass body from the press mold to thus obtain the optical component, wherein said optical component has deviations from predetermined dimensions that are smaller than 100 nm.

26.(new) The method as defined in claim 25, wherein said voltage is a D.C. voltage or an asymmetrical A.C. voltage.